



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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News & Articles

Ready or Not: An Evaluation of State Climate and Water Preparedness Planning

Some states are leading the way in preparing for water-related impacts of climate change by putting comprehensive preparedness plans in place; however, other states have not yet formally addressed climate change preparedness. This report outlines water-related threats and ways to address this issue. [MORE>>](#)

U.S. to Offer Anthrax Vaccine to First Responders on Trial Basis

Officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are in the planning stages of an initiative that would offer select state officials the option to accept federally funded anthrax vaccination doses. These unused federal stocks would be available to emergency response personnel. Pilot sites for the initiative are currently being considered. [MORE>>](#)

The Effect of Anti-lethal Toxin Antibodies on Anthrax Mortality

Results of a recent study suggest that treatment with antitoxin antibodies may be effective for all cases of anthrax that progress to septic shock. If results are validated for humans, then a robust supply of these products will be needed for the SNS. [MORE>>](#)

Better Understanding of Psychosocial Consequences of Disasters Needed, Report Says

A new study published in the Journal of Family Issues of a systematic analysis of how families communicate when faced with serious health issues brought on by 'slow moving technological disasters' poses important issues for policymakers, according to the University at Buffalo (UB), The State University of New York. One of the university's professors, Heather Orom, was the lead author of the paper. [MORE>>](#)

Readout of Secretary Napolitano's Remarks at the 2012 National Fusion Center Training Event

Earlier this month, Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano spoke at the 2012 National Fusion Center Training Event in Phoenix, Arizona. She emphasized the importance of collaborating with federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners to identify and respond to emerging threats. [MORE>>](#)

Joint Statement by North American Leaders

This joint statement reflects a unified goal to introduce appropriate regulatory measures that allow for innovation and growth while ensuring high standards of public health, safety, and environmental protection in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Among the tangible regulatory measures announced was the North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza to strengthen the response to future influenza events in North America. [MORE>>](#)

Bird Flu Studies Mired in Export Control Law Limbo

Published on NPR on April 10th
Scientists who created mutant forms of bird flu want to see their research published, and an influential advisory committee recently gave them the green light after a debate that lasted for months. But one of the manuscripts is now being blocked from publication because of Dutch legal controls on the export of technology that could potentially be used for weapons. Read or listen to the story on National Public Radio. [MORE>>](#)

Update: Mutant-flu researcher plans to publish even without permission

Published in Nature on April 17th
[MORE>>](#)

RAND Report: Analysis of the Cities Readiness Initiative

The Centers for Disease Control asked the RAND Corporation to conduct an analysis of the Cities Readiness Initiative. This analysis is a follow up from an earlier report from 2007-2008. The analysis focused on the following points: the current status of communities' operational capability to meet the CRI program goal of delivering medical countermeasures to entire Metropolitan Statistical Areas within 48 hours of the federal decision to deploy assets and whether there is evidence that CRI has improved communities' capability to meet the 48-hour goal. [MORE>>](#)

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Next issue: May 4th

North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI)

Leaders from Canada, the United States, and Mexico came together to update a pandemic influenza plan for North America that was initially created in 2007 in response to H5N1. The current plan reflects changes that include the recent 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. The goal of the NAPAPI is to mitigate the spread of a pandemic influenza virus whether it emerges from overseas or in North America, as the H1N1 virus did. [MORE>>](#)

Preparedness launches LinkedIn Page

CDC has created a LinkedIn account to bring together emergency preparedness and response professionals across the nation. This page connects LinkedIn subscribers to trusted contacts to exchange knowledge, ideas, and opportunities with a broader network of professionals. LinkedIn users can receive updates, take part in discussions, and provide feedback on upcoming CDC initiatives. [MORE>>](#)

Unquestionable Answers Social Media Campaign

In an effort to encourage young adults to call the Poison Help hotline instead of searching the Internet for answers to poisoning questions, the American Association of Poison Control Centers has launched "Unquestionable Answers," a social media campaign with the theme "Stop searching. Just call!" Designed by undergraduate students at the University of Miami as part of a charitable publicity event called PhilAdthropy, the campaign will run through April 28, 2012. To see the campaign, visit the AAPCC [Facebook](#) page, follow @aapcc on Twitter, or visit the association's [website](#).

Bird's Eye View

Open-source media can help maximize real-time situational awareness for those responsible for emergency response. Twitter, geo-tagging, Flickr, and crisis mapping are discussed. [MORE>>](#)

Disgusting works, ASU Research Says

New research from Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business indicates that advertising that disgusts viewers often is the most effective. As part of the research, 155 undergraduate students looked at various versions of anti-meth ads with the same words and general format, but different images, reported the Phoenix Business Journal. The version with a teen's face covered with open sores was seen as much more effective than less disgusting versions of the ad. "Disgust dramatically enhances persuasion and compliance above and beyond just fear appeals," says Business Marketing Prof. Andrea Morales, who led the research. "You have to go beyond scare tactics to produce a strong and immediate avoidance reaction or change in behavior. For example, disgust is especially good at motivating people toward losing weight, quitting smoking or changing another behavior to improve their health." [MORE>>](#)

Research

Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 in England, 2009 to 2011: a Greater Burden of Severe Illness in the Year After the Pandemic Than in the Pandemic Year

A study published in Eurosurveillance outlines how the effects of a pandemic influenza virus linger beyond the year in which the pandemic took place. The researchers analyzed the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) surveillance data, Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data, NHS Business Services Authority data, and Google data from the pandemic year (2009/10) and the year after (2010/11) in England. They studied four elements which included: hospital admissions, deaths, public perception, and antiviral prescribing. The research showed in England, the year after the pandemic

year was worse for H1N1 than the pandemic year. All indicators were higher with the exception of general practitioner visits. The authors concluded that attention should be paid not only in the pandemic year, but also the year following the pandemic. [MORE>>](#)

An Analysis of 332 Fatalities Infected with Pandemic 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) in Argentina

Authors in PLoS One analyzed the number of fatalities in Argentina due to 2009 pandemic influenza because of concern that the virus may have changed. The authors analyzed data from identified laboratory-confirmed pandemic influenza fatalities occurring during June-July 2009. The data analyzed was used to show the characteristics of the fatalities in Argentina. The analysis showed of the 332 fatalities, acute respiratory failure was the leading cause of death. 75% of the deaths had at least one comorbidity (obesity, pulmonary disease, and children less than five years old). Six percent of the fatalities were pregnant women. They found that antivirals were given late in many of these instances. [MORE>>](#)

Screening for Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, Auckland International Airport, New Zealand

Researchers in Emerging Infectious Diseases study airport entry screening for 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza in New Zealand. They estimated the number of screened travelers from airport screening data during a period from April 29, 2009 to June 22, 2009. The data showed of the 456,518 international travelers were screened; 406 were referred for medical assessment. Of those, 109 met the case definition and received virologic testing. 312 cases were confirmed. The proportion of travelers who acquired the infection overseas was 32%. From this data the researchers concluded that the airport screening that took place would not have slowed the spread of 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza due to low sensitivity. [MORE>>](#)

Highly Pathogenic Influenza A(H5N1) Virus Survival in Complex Artificial Aquatic Biotopes

Researchers in PLoS One study how well the H5N1 influenza virus survives in tropical aquatic areas. The researchers studied mud and water without aquatic flora and rain, pond, and lake water with aquatic flora. Each sample was inoculated with H5N1 influenza virus to study its survival in each medium. The research showed all samples with the exception of rain water held a viable virus for more than four days. Viral RNA persisted longer and was found in some of the flora. The researchers found the flora were merely carriers and not support viral replication. The researchers concluded the environmental surveillance should be a part of H5N1 influenza surveillance. [MORE>>](#)

The Michigan Update

District 1 Regional Medical Response Coalition ACC Exercise

The District 1 Regional Medical Response Coalition (D1RMC) is planning an Alternate Care Center (ACC) tabletop and full-scale exercise that will test the activation and implementation of the community Michigan Emergency Management System (MEMS) plan. The hospital will stand up their alternate care site and use their local emergency medical services (EMS) and the Casualty Transportation System (CTS), coordinating with the local public health department and emergency management. It will utilize college campus facilities, staff, and other community partners.

Please contact D1RMD at 517-324-4404 if you are interested in observing these exercises.

D1RE Play 3 ACC
Table top and full-scale
Hayes Green Beach & Olivet College
May 4 & May 10

D1RE Play 3 ACC
Table top and full-scale
Allegiance Health
May 15 & 22

Update: Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network Completes Highly Successful Training and Lectures

The Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network is currently in the midst of a very intensive series of training, exercises, and lectures. On March 22nd, the Region held its second Psychological First Aid course in conjunction with Saginaw Valley State University's (SVSU) School of Nursing. This course, which provides education on assisting the victims of natural and man-made disasters, is nationally recognized as a highly valuable asset in helping those who have experienced these life changing events. This full day course was initially limited to 40 participants, but due to high demand was expanded to 60. Reviews provided by the participants were uniformly positive. Region 3 looks forward to holding this course again next grant cycle, and potentially a course on Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). Because of the relationship with the SVSU nursing program, Region 3 is able to offer nursing continuing education credits for this and other approved Regional courses.

On March 30th, The Region hosted an 800 MHz operator's course at Hills and Dales Hospital in Cass City. This full day course, approved by Michigan's Public Safety Communication System, trained more than 20 healthcare professionals in the operation of the state 800 MHz system, and how to use it properly. Due to its popularity this course will be offered again on May 15th in West Branch.

A Mass Fatality Tabletop Exercise was held on April 10th. This event was attended by over 40 participants, including EMS, emergency management, public health, hospitals, long term care, medical examiner and other related fields. The exercise focused on two scenarios: a commercial air plane crash into a local college and a series of tornados striking Midland, Bay and Saginaw counties. Participants reported that they learned a great deal from the discussions and look forward to expanding their knowledge on the subject over the next year.

The Region 3 Coordinator was a guest speaker at SVSU during two lectures for nursing students. The presentation focused on the psychological aspects of disaster response. Over 50 students attended the two lectures on the theories of assisting those who have experienced disasters. Students also participated in case-study discussions based on the Coordinator's personal clinical experiences.

Other future courses include a joint Basic Disaster Life Support/Advanced Disaster Life Support course held in conjunction with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Region 6. In addition, the Region is hosting and participating in local as well as full scale exercises that will culminate in the Cornerstones in Preparedness conference on June 21st.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Grant Awards Announcement

The Michigan Climate & Health Program (MICHAP) recently awarded the Ingham County Health Department (ICHHD) and City of Grand Rapids (GR)/Kent County Health Department (KCHD) for two HIA demonstration projects. ICHHD is conducting an HIA of key-motorized transportation elements of the City of East Lansing's draft Climate Sustainability Plan

and Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The East Lansing HIA will help the City and health department evaluate options for climate sustainability improvement projects and make recommendations to improve both personal health and environmental benefits. The GR Planning Department in partnership with Kent County Health Department is evaluating three development scenarios of the Michigan Street Corridor to alleviate traffic congestion, accommodate additional land development, ensure access to housing and needed services for disadvantaged populations, and improve the physical health and wellbeing of the community. Congratulations to Ingham County Health Department and the City of Grand Rapids for their efforts to build capacity in Michigan for HIA.

Michigan HOT Weather Survey Reports

During summer 2011, the Michigan Climate & Health Program worked with Ingham County Health Department and Washtenaw Public Health Department to develop and pilot heat vulnerability assessment surveys used to determine the effects of heat events on vulnerable populations in Washtenaw and Ingham Counties. The results of these assessments are being incorporated into community adaptation planning and emergency preparedness activities. Click on the links below to review each report and survey instrument.

- [Ingham Hot Weather & Health Report, Data Analysis & Survey Instrument](#)
- [Washtenaw Hot Weather & Health Report, Survey Instrument](#)

For more information on these projects, contact Dominic Smith at 517-335-8139 or at smithd82@michigan.gov.

Tools & Resources

Engaging Latino Communities in Emergency Management

On March 27, 2012, FEMA, along with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health and the National Council of La Raza hosted a webinar that highlighted resources available to assist emergency management agencies with strengthening relationships with the Latino community. Among these resources is the emergency manager's tool kit for Latino communities. The webinar is currently available for viewing online. [MORE>>](#)

Disaster Behavioral Health Concept of Operations

This report focuses on improved coordination of federal preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for behavioral health. It provides a conceptual framework that supports National Health Security Strategy goals. [MORE>>](#)

New Teen CERT Materials Available

Based on the success of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program and the demand to create tools to support the nationwide effort to train teenagers on CERT, FEMA is pleased to announce the following new resources:

- Teen CERT web page, which includes a new public service announcement and Teen CERT Annexes to the CERT Basic Training and Train-the-Trainer Instructor Guides. [MORE>>](#)
- Free National CERT Online Discussion Forum for exchanging information and ideas among CERT members across the country. [MORE>>](#)

By training teens in emergency preparedness and response, you have the ability to empower our nation's future with the skills necessary to protect

themselves and assist others in the event of an emergency. Students learn basic disaster response skills including fire suppression, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, terrorism awareness, and disaster medical operations.

Did You Know?

"Did You Know?" is a weekly feature from CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support to inform your prevention activities. CDC invites you to sign up for the weekly letter to be sent to your e-mail address. [MORE>>](#)

How Illinois Coordinates Across the Public, Private Sectors

In Illinois, the Private Sector Alliance project is helping the public and private sectors work together to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters. The program initially began in 2004 as the Infrastructure Security Awareness program, but has since evolved to include the Mutual Aid Response and Resource Network, as well as the Business Emergency Operations Center. [MORE>>](#)

For the Public's Health: Investing in a Healthier Future

The Institute of Medicine published the final report in a series that assesses the financial challenges facing the governmental public health infrastructure. [MORE>>](#)

Key Changes to Pandemic Plans by Member States of the WHO European Region Based on Lessons Learnt from the 2009 Pandemic

The World Health Organization European Region and the European Centers for Disease Prevention and Control published a report that outlines changes to member state pandemic plans after the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. This report is the result of four workshops held for this purpose in September and November of 2011. The member states found the following five key changes need to be made to all pandemic plans: more flexible plans that will facilitate the response to pandemics of differing severity; strengthened capacity to perform risk assessment and risk communication; improved strategies for pandemic vaccine procurement and deployment; strengthened surveillance for severe disease associated with influenza; and improved communication with front-line responders and the general public. [MORE>>](#)

Training & Events

Practical and Effective School Crisis Planning Conference for Michigan Schools

Mr. Michael Dorn, an international authority and author on school safety, will be presenting information that is practical and evidenced based when it comes to school emergency preparedness. There will be three one-day workshops hosted in three locations including:

Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Macomb Intermediate School District
44001 Garfield, Clinton

Date: Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. um

7426 N. Canal Road, Lansing, MI 48913

Date: Thursday, April 26, 2012
Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Fetzer Center, Western Michigan University
1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

SB-CEUs and Social Work CEUs are available. This is Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) approved. Registration must be completed online at <https://mi.train.org>. Enter course code 1032937 in the Search by Course ID box, and then click the course link. On the Registration tab, click Register. For more information, contact Sgt. Michelle Robinson at (517) 322-5595.

Webcast: When Disaster Strikes, People Turn to the Internet for Information

April 26, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. (EST)
Emergency Management and Google will present information on how emergency management agencies and first responders can utilize new tools from Google to run many of their internal operations during a crisis. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

**4th International Symposium on Managing Animal Mortalities, Products, By-Products & Associated Health Risks
May 21-24, 2012
Dearborn, MI**

Michigan is hosting the 4th International Symposium on Managing Animal Mortalities, Products, By-Products & Associated Health Risks. For more information, click [HERE](#).

**10th Annual Biodefense Vaccines & Therapeutics 2012
June 5-8, 2012
Almas Temple Club, Washington, DC**
Registration Code BV1E12
Click [HERE](#)

**Michigan Public Information Training
June 12-13, 2012
Ann Arbor, MI**

Registration is now open for the June 12-13, 2012 Public Information Training sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness.

Training Description - On day one Peter M. Sandman will introduce participants to crisis communication: how to alert apathetic people to serious risks, and how to reassure overly alarmed people about small risks. Day two features the Media Survival Group who will cover traditional and social media, and hands-on involvement in all primary functions of emergency public information: gathering, writing, dissemination, and field information. This training serves as a bridge between daily public relations activities and crisis communication during public health emergencies.

Audience - This training is recommended for public information officers from local health departments, hospitals, and emergency management agencies in Michigan.

The training is limited to 120 participants on a first come first served basis. Please register early to secure your spot. To see the training brochure with registration details, click [HERE](#).

**E389 Master Public Information Officer Training – FEMA
Emergency Management Institute
August 6-10, 2012**

National Emergency Training Center, Emmitsburg, MD

The PIO Master-Level course provides PIOs with National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) guidance, management, leadership tools, and techniques to use during disasters. It addresses larger coordination efforts needed for events requiring communication at the regional, tribal, State, and Federal levels. Deadline to apply is April 30, 2012. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Michigan, Pharmacy Continuing Education Credit for FEMA ICS Courses

Within the disaster response community, expertise in the Incident Command system is certainly recognized as vital towards the successful planning, mitigation, response and recovery to a crisis event. The Michigan Board of Pharmacy has recognized its value for pharmacy and pharmacists as well.

The Board has approved pharmacy continuing education credit for IS-100 for Healthcare, 200, and 700 for pharmacists that successfully complete these FEMA sponsored online courses. The Michigan Pharmacists Association is also able to extend continuing education credits for pharmacy technicians that complete IS-100 course as well. Most licensed healthcare professionals are required to complete programming towards a minimum number of continuing education credits annually to maintain licensure..

These programs are currently approved through the middle of October. Access and continuing education information can be found on the Michigan Pharmacists Association website (click [HERE](#)) There is no charge to the participants for completing this program.

Archived Webcast: Nuclear Power Plant Safety and the Public Health Response

Original Air Date: Friday, April 13, 2012

This webcast addresses the general aspects of a nuclear power plant malfunction, the potential health effects of a nuclear power plant accident, protective actions measures, and characteristics of population monitoring after an accident. To view, click [HERE](#).

Region 2 North Education and Training Activities

Region 2 North (R2N) has a very active Education Advisory Committee, which is meeting monthly to plan the region's education and training program. Members of the committee include representatives from partner hospitals, EMS agencies, medical control authorities, and the R2N staff. Each year the committee sets objectives for courses and conferences and reviews the plan with the R2N Planning Board. Here are the highlights of this year's plan:

Conference Stipends: The region supports small conference stipends for partners to attend pre-approved conferences related to Planning Board objectives. Attendees must apply for the conference stipends and meet reporting objectives. Usually the stipend covers the cost of the conference, if any, and travel costs up to a specified limit. Attendees must submit a written summary of conference topics and relevant points to the regional office. Approved conferences include

the OPHP conference on March 2, EMS Expo on April 19-22, Great Lakes Homeland Security May 2-3, and the Joint Commission April 11-12.

NIMS training: The region supports instructor lead training for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) classes. A NIMS overview of IS-100, 200, 700, and 800 material classes are scheduled for April 30 and May 22 to either review the material for those who have already completed the courses or to prepare students to take the online certification exam. We also conducted NIMS ICS300 and 400, two day training classes in February and March.

BDLS: The Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) one day class is scheduled for May 24 at St. John Macomb-Oakland Macomb Campus.

CBRNE Operations: The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Operations two-day courses are scheduled for April 23-24 at St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron and June 7-8 at Beaumont Royal Oak.

CBRNE for CTS: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive Operations one-day course for Casualty Transportation System (CTS) providers are scheduled for April 30, May 18, and June 25.

R2N Annual Conference: The R2N Annual Partnership in Preparedness: Current Trends conference is scheduled for June 14 and this conference usually draws around 250 attendees. Topics this year include State of the State and Region, IT Infrastructure Risks, Designer Drugs, Leadership in Crisis, Social Media 101, and Case Review Phosgene.

Long Term Care Conference: The R2N Long Term Care Conference is planned for May 23. This half-day conference is for LTC agencies and other healthcare facilities in the region.

For more information on these education or training opportunities, please contact the Region 2 North office at 248-759-4748.



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